

**Escambia County
Clerk's Original**

1/18/2022 CATI-2

RESOLUTION R2022- 17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN THE
BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING FOR JUNIOR ENLISTED
SERVICE MEMBERS STATIONED IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA; AND
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Escambia County strongly supports enhancing Northwest Florida's contribution to the National Defense; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida aspires to be the most military friendly community in the most military friendly state in America; and

WHEREAS, Florida's First Congressional District is known to have the highest concentration of active duty service members and veterans in America; and

WHEREAS; in Escambia County the military mission has specifically supported NAS Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, due to persistent and productive cooperation among County, State and Federal leaders, including Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott and Congressman Matt Gaetz, the military mission in Northwest Florida is growing, specifically with the expectation that the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act ("NDAA") will bring in excess of \$300 million in direct investment to Northwest Florida; and

WHEREAS, the NDAA is poised to fund \$54.8 Million Special Operations Technology Development, \$4 Million for wearable robotic devices to enhance worker safety in environmental cleanup at nuclear waste sites; and

WHEREAS, the NDAA builds on five years of exponentially increasing military investment in Northwest Florida, including \$4 Million for Sustained Human Performance and Resilience, the procurement of five USN F-35C's, the addition of four Coast Guard Cutters, \$483 Million for the procurement of F/A-18E/F aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Escambia County understands that Northwest Florida's growing military mission will result in more military families residing in Escambia County, which Escambia County welcomes as a value to the economy, culture and fabric of this community; and

Date: 1/18/2022 Verified By: 

WHEREAS, the growing military mission will require additional construction on Northwest Florida's military installations, in some cases stressing the physical plant that can accommodate on-base housing for service members; and

WHEREAS, Escambia County is a welcome community to host service members for off-base housing solutions; and

WHEREAS, service members who seek off-base housing solutions utilize the Basic Allowance for Housing provided by the Department of Defense ("BAH") to resource housing solutions; and

WHEREAS, in Escambia County's flourishing economic opportunities, low unemployment, expanding job creation, rising wages and the challenges of the most extreme inflation in over thirty years has resulted in rising rates for annual rental agreements for housing; and

WHEREAS, the NDAA observes the unique housing challenges for junior enlisted service members in Northwest Florida as follows: "Due to a lack of on base housing, and tightening of the off base housing market, Basic Allowance for Housing has not kept up with property price increases, placing an undue burden on the men and women in uniform and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense's focus on the housing challenges of junior enlisted service members in Northwest Florida presents a unique opportunity to increase the BAH for those stationed in our community; and

WHEREAS, the disparity between the average rent and the BAH rate places a significant burden on the service member and their family; and

WHEREAS, this burden reduces the morale and combat effectiveness of the military mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. That the Board of County Commissioners fully endorses an increase in the Basic Allowance for Housing for junior enlisted service members stationed in Northwest Florida.

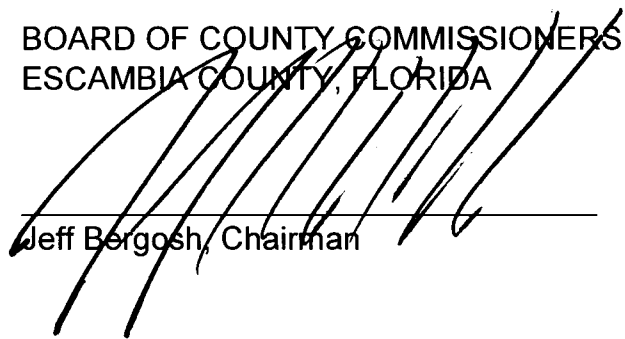
Section 3. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of Court is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution be furnished to the Secretary of Defense and all members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED this 18th day of January, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Date Executed

1/18/2022


Jeff Bergosh, Chairman

ATTEST: PAM CHILDERS
Clerk of the Circuit Court


Deputy Clerk



Approved as to form and legal
sufficiency.

By/Title: 

Date: 1/14/22